Industry Profiles 2016

Utilities Industry

Alberta Government

OVERVIEW

The Utilities industry[1] in Alberta includes:

- electric power generation, transmission and distribution;
- natural gas distribution; and
- water, sewer and irrigation systems.

Section A: Business Environment
1. 2015 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates
2. Industry's Growth
3. Facts, Trends and Outlook
4. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry
Section B: Human Resources Profile
1. Occupational Information
2. Demographics: Gender and Age
3. Wages and Salaries
Section C: Additional Information
Links to Industry Associations

[1] North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2007 major group 22

SECTION A
BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

1. 2015 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates

Table 1

	Alberta	Utilities Industry
Employment	2,301,100	20,200
Employment Share	N/A	0.9%
Unemployment	148,000	N/A
Unemployment rate	6.0%	N/A

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2015
Note: Note: N/A denotes not-applicable. Employment share is obtained by dividing the number of employment in this industry by total employment in Alberta.

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, please go to the Labour Force Statistics[2] **website or** Statistics Canada[3].

2. Industry's Growth

- **The Utilities industry accounted for 0.9% of total employment in Alberta in 2015.**
- **Employment in this industry is expected to grow at an average rate of 1.2% from 2016 to 2019[4].**
- **The industry is expected to account for 0.8% of total employment in Alberta in 2016.**

For more information, see the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS)[5] **website for descriptions of industries.**

[2] See http://work.alberta.ca/labour/labour-force-statistics-and-annual-reviews.html
[3] See http://www.statcan.gc.ca
[4] Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2015 – 2019, Industry Employment Outlook
[5] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

3. Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Utilities industry accounted for approximately 1.4% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in 2015, down from 1.6% in 2005. Its contribution to Alberta's total employment increased from 0.8% in 2005 to 0.9% in 2015.

Total employment (the total number of employees and self-employed people, 15 years and over) in 2015 was 10.4% higher than its level in 2014. Over the last 10 years, employment increased by 6,400 from 2005, a 46.4% increase. There were 20,200 employed in the industry in 2015, of whom 98.5% were full time and 1.5% were part time.

Table 2

Characteristic	Alberta	Utilities
Median Retirement Age (years)	64.3	N/A
Average Number of Hours Worked per Week	36.9	38.9
Multiple Jobholders (% of total employment)	5.6%	N/A
Average Job Tenure (months)	88.8	120.6
Employees Under Union Coverage (%)	19.7%	47.5%
Employees Working Overtime per Week (%)	17.2%	23.8%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Tables 282-0022, 282-0031, 282-0042, 282-0078 and 282-0084, 2015, and custom tabulation (median retirement age)
Note: N/A denotes data not available due to the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act
Note: The percentage of multiple jobholders is obtained by dividing the number of multiple jobholders by total employment. This calculation method also applies to the percentage of employees under union coverage and the percentage of employees working overtime per week.

4. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry

Table 3

Establishment Size	Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Utilities	
	Number of Employees	%*	Number of Employees	%*
Less than 20 employees	686,000	35.6%	4,800	23.8%
20 to 99 employees	699,000	36.2%	6,500	32.2%
100 to 500 employees	345,700	17.9%	5,400	26.7%
More than 500 employees	195,500	10.1%	3,600	17.8%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0076, 2015

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding

Note: Statistics Canada's survey methodology for determining establishment size differs from the one it uses in the Labour Force Survey to determine total employment. As a result, the total number of employees by establishment size will not be the same as total employment in the industry, except by coincidence.

SECTION B
HUMAN RESOURCES PROFILE

1. Occupational Information

Some examples of occupations that can be found in the Utilities industry include:

- gas utility operator;
- utility clerk;
- water and wastewater treatment plant operator;
- power lineman; and
- power system electrician.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry, as well as detailed information on education and skill requirements, visit the Alberta Occupational Profiles[6] website.

2. Demographics: Gender and Age

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Utilities industry in 2015 was as follows:

- women employed: 4,800 people, or 23.8%
- men employed: 15,400 people, or 76.2%

Overall in Alberta, women accounted for 45.1% and men made up 54.9% of total employment (for all industries).

Table 4

Age Characteristics	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Utilities	
	Number	%*	Number	%*
15-24 years	320,300	13.9%	1,500	7.4%
25-54 years	1,551,700	67.4%	15,500	76.7%
55 years and over	429,100	18.6%	3,200	15.8%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2015
*Percentages may not add up 100 due to rounding.

[6] See http://occinfo.alis.alberta.ca/occinfopreview

3. Wages and Salaries

Chart 1

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0072, 2015.
Note: The average hourly wage is obtained by dividing the sum of the wages of all the employees by the total number of employees. The median hourly wage is that wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Table 5

Occupation	Average Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
	Starting	Overall	Top	
Utilities manager	$59.89	$67.07	$76.55	$140,750
Water/wastewater and gas maintenance workers	$29.15	$42.59	$60.15	$88,215
Electrical power line and cable workers	$35.39	$49.31	$51.46	$102,568

Data Source: 2015 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For more information on the *2015 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey*, refer to the *WAGEinfo*[7] **website. For job descriptions, duties, skills and educational requirements of specific occupations in the Utilities industry, visit the** *ALIS*[8] **website.**

[7] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo

[8] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

SECTION C
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Links to Industry Associations

- **Alberta Energy Resources and Conservation Board**
  http://www.ercb.ca
- **Canadian Gas Association**
  http://www.cga.ca
- **Canadian Wind Energy Association**
  http://www.canwea.ca
- **Canadian Electricity Association**
  http://www.electricity.ca

Call us or visit our website for more information or to find the following publications:

- 2015 Annual Alberta Labour Market Review
- Monthly Alberta Labour Force Statistics Highlights and Publications
- Alberta's Occupational Demand and Supply Outlook
- Alberta Labour Force Profiles
- Alberta Industry Profiles

www.work.alberta.ca/labour.html (Get Labour Market Information)
In Edmonton: 780-422-4266
Long distance: 1-800-661-3753

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